

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Great Decisions 2019 Class Schedule and Class Facilitators

Welcome to the OLLI Great Decisions course for 2019. The course will meet on consecutive Tuesdays beginning on March 26 and continuing through May 14.

The Great Decisions course is different from most of the OLLI courses in that it is not intended to be a lecture, and the class size is restricted to encourage robust conversation. The course is also different in that you have homework. By now, you have received the 2019 Great Decisions course book published annually by the Foreign Policy Association. The book contains eight chapters, each dealing with a different foreign policy issue, and an introductory chapter dealing with an overview of the materials and suggesting a structure for discussion of the issues raised in the materials.

Each class will deal with a different chapter in the book. I will facilitate discussion in each class. However, we will not deal with the chapters in the order in which they are presented in the book. The reason for changing the order is that I will be accompanied by a co-facilitator in each of the eight classes. Each co-facilitator is someone with particular expertise in the subject to be discussed in that class. The rearrangement of order has been done to accommodate their schedules. Each chapter stands on its own as a discussion topic, so there is no magic to the order in which the chapters are presented in the book. We will not lose anything by taking them out of order.

I urge you to read the materials for each class in advance of that class. We may not discuss the materials exactly as presented in the book, so reading the materials and attending class will be the best way to get the full benefit of the course.

Prior to the first session, I urge to read not only the first chapter, but also the introductory chapter. We will spend some time on it when we meet.

Set forth below is the order in which we will examine each of the chapters in the book and the co-facilitators who will be with us in each class, including a short biographical description of each.

March 26—Refugees and Global Migration—William C. Thompson, M.D.

Dr. Thompson is a recently retired pulmonary medicine physician. He spent most of his career with the St. Thomas/Baptist system in Nashville, both as a practicing physician and in senior level management positions. From 2007 to 2012, he served as Chief Medical Officer at what was then Baptist Hospital and from 2012 to 2013 was Chief Quality Control officer at St. Thomas Hospital. From December, 2016 to October, 2017, he was Clinical Director of the Reconstructive Surgical Project (RSP) for Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders)

at Al Mowahsa Hospital, Amman, Jordan where he served as clinical head for all aspects of a reconstructive surgical project providing services to war-wounded from Iraq, Yemen and Syria, including the Psychosocial Services Department at RSP. In 2016, he spent eight months as Clinical Director of Medical Activity Manager for Médecins Sans Frontières in Grozny, Chechnya, Russian Federation, treating a cohort of extensively drug resistant tuberculosis patients with the Chechen Ministry of Health (MOH) and a sixty patient cohort of diabetics with tuberculosis in conjunction with MOH. From July 2014 to November 2015, Dr. Thompson served as a Global Health Service Partnership Volunteer and Honorary Lecturer in Pulmonary Medicine – Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) and Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. In that position, he served as a physician educator in this medical capacity-building, collaborative program established by Seed Global Health and U. S. Peace Corps designed to serve sub-Saharan African nations. Dr. Thompson has a B. S. in Sociology from Vanderbilt University and an M.D. from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine, Jackson, Mississippi. He did his residency in internal medicine at Vanderbilt Medical Center and did a Fellowship in Pulmonary Medicine at Cornell Medical Center in New York City. Dr. Thompson's wife is Laurel Cassidy, who is a nurse with Médecins Sans Frontières who has served in refugee camps all over the world. She is currently deployed to Bangladesh on the Myanmar border where the Rohingya refugee crisis is occurring.

April 2— The Middle East: Regional Disorder--Brigadier General (Retired) Scott E. Brower

General Brower is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, and has a Masters of Science degree in Defense Analysis from the Naval Postgraduate School and is a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS. He retired in 2018 after a distinguished career.

His initial assignment was to the 8th Infantry Division (Mechanized) in Mainz, West Germany where he served in Operation Desert Storm. He then served with the 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) from 1995 to 1998, where he deployed on multiple training exercises to southern Africa, after which he was assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), from 2001 to 2004, where he deployed on the initial invasions of both Afghanistan and Iraq. From 2004 to 2006, General Brower was assigned to United States Special Operations Command, Tampa, Florida, followed by a return to Fort Campbell. From June 2006 to June 2008, General Brower served as the Commander of 3rd Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), where he deployed his battalion to Iraq from October 2007 – May 2008, as well as deployed Special Forces Detachments across the Middle East to work with a variety of allies and partner forces. Subsequently, he served as the J3 (Operations) for Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force – Arabian Peninsula (CJSOTF-AP), where he was responsible for the planning, coordination and synchronization of all special operations across the Iraq theater of war. General Brower then attended the Air War College in Montgomery, AL from June 2009 to June 2010 followed by assignment as the Deputy Commander of 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), with duty as the Commander of Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force – Arabian Peninsula. During that deployment, General Brower returned to Fort Campbell to assume command of 5th

Special Forces Group (Airborne) from August 2011 to July 2013. While not in Iraq, he was once again responsible for the deployment of Special Forces Detachments throughout the Middle East. General Brower was then assigned as the Chief of Staff for the United States Army Special Operations Command, at Fort Bragg, from August 2013 to July 2014, followed by a deployment to Islamabad Pakistan, where he served as the Deputy for Operations, Office of Defense Representative – Pakistan, responsible for coordinating all military operations along the Afghan – Pakistan border. From February 2016 to January 2017 he served as the Acting Senior Commander, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). General Brower then returned to Afghanistan where he served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications on the RESOLUTE SUPPORT MISSION Staff from June 2017 to December 2017. His last active duty assignment was as the Deputy Commanding General of 1st Special Forces Command (Airborne).

General Brower is now serving as a Military Advisor in Residence to the President of Austin Peay State University, as well as serving as the Chief Operating Officer of the Fort Campbell Historical Society. General Brower also serves on the Board of Directors for Centerstone Military Services, which is a non-profit, mental health company, focused on the care of veterans and their families.

April 9—Cyber Conflict and Geopolitics—Pat Ryan, U.S. Navy (Retired)

Pat Ryan is president and founder of Tennessee World Affairs Council, a non-partisan, non-profit organization, hosted by Belmont University, operating under the umbrella of the World Affairs Councils of America, focused on bringing global awareness programs and resources to communities and schools in the State of Tennessee. He is also the president and founder of Ryan & Associates, an editorial consulting firm based in Nashville, specializing in on-line global affairs information resources. He is a career officer in the United States Navy, achieving the rank of Chief Petty Officer in the submarine service, before being commissioned as an Ensign in 1981. He has served in the Persian Gulf, Bahrain, Italy and Japan. He retired in 1998 as a Lt. Commander. Among his assignments were the Joint Staff in the Pentagon, the Center for Naval Analysis, and US Central Command headquarters. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies from the University of South Carolina and has taken graduate level courses in National Security Studies at Georgetown University and in political science at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He is a board member of the World Affairs Councils of America and an active Rotarian. You can learn more about Pat at www.tnwac.org/about/board-of-directors/patrick-w-ryan/

April 16—European populism and Immigration—Adam Bronstone, Ph.D.

Dr. Bronstone is the Director of Planning for the Jewish Federation of Nashville. Dr. Bronstone holds a doctorate from the University of Hull (UK), where he specialized in European Union/European politics. He has published on a variety of related issues including security and political and economic matters. He is currently finishing a book which examines the changed nature of political affiliations in the wake of the 2016 American presidential election and the Brexit referendum.

April 23—Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future?—Susan Haynes, Ph.D.

Dr. Haynes is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Lipscomb University. She teaches in the area of International Law, International Security, Terrorism, Politics of Developing Countries, Comparative Politics, and American Foreign Policy. She holds a Ph.D. and an M.A. in Political Science from George Mason University. She did her undergraduate work at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Her doctoral dissertation examined nuclear disarmament. Her publications include:

“Chinese Nuclear Strategy” in Baxter, Phil & Warren, Aidan, eds. *Nuclear Modernization in the 21st Century: A Technical, Policy, and Strategic Review* (Routledge, London: 2019);

“The Power of Prestige: Explaining China’s Nuclear Weapons Decisions,” *Asian Security* Vol. 14, No. 2 (Summer 2018);

“Dragon in the Room: Disarmament’s Missing Player,” *Strategic Studies Quarterly* Vol. 12, No. 1 (Spring 2018);

“Anarchy and the New Arms Race,” *The Nuclear Nonproliferation Review* Vol. 23, No. 3-4 (2016);

Chinese Nuclear Proliferation: How Global Politics is Transforming China’s Weapons Modernization, (Potomac Books, an Imprint of University of Nebraska Press, Dulles, Virginia: July 2016);

“China’s Nuclear Threat Perceptions,” *Strategic Studies Quarterly* Vol. 10, No. 2 (Summer 2016)

April 30—Decoding U.S.-China Trade--Jeremy Goldkorn

Jeremy Goldkorn is co-founder of the *Sinica Podcast* and currently edits the website *SupChina* and its daily newsletter. He was born in Johannesburg, South Africa, he has spent chunks of time living in Cape Town, London, Paris, New York, and Mountain View, California. China, mostly Beijing, was his home from 1995 to 2015. During this time he lived in a workers dormitory, rode a bicycle across Xinjiang, Qinghai, and Tibet, started several businesses, and wrote for publications as diverse as *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and *Cosmopolitan* magazine’s China edition. He researches, writes and speaks about a range of subjects including media and Internet regulation, business in China, freedom of expression, the habits of Chinese Internet users, Sino-African affairs, the Great Wall and Chinese consumer culture.

While living in China, he founded and ran a number of print magazines and websites. He founded the groundbreaking website Danwei, which reported on and translated Chinese media and internet news and was acquired by the Financial Times in 2013. His articles about China appear at www.supchina.com.

May 7—The United States and Mexico: Partnership Tested—Larry Harrington

Mr. Harrington is a lawyer practicing in Nashville advising international business clients. From 1995 to 2001, he was the United States Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank, the largest multilateral finance institution in Latin America and the Caribbean. He also served

on the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Investment Corporation, a financial institution making loans to small and medium private enterprises. From 2004 to 2008, he lived and worked in Mexico City representing the Inter-American Development Bank Group in Mexico. While in Mexico, he managed infrastructure development programs funded by a \$5 billion portfolio of loans and grants, coordinated initiatives with federal and state government officials and worked with the Secretary of Hacienda (Ministry of Finance), as well as other federal agencies and non-governmental organizations. During his time there, he was a member of the diplomatic corps and Council of Foreign Relations of Mexico. Since 2002, he has served as a public policy scholar and member of the Mexico Institute Advisory Board of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, located in Washington, D.C. The Mexico Institute is a leading bi-lateral policy institute. From 2008 to 2014 he served as Chief Deputy Attorney General for Policy in the office of the Attorney General of the State of Tennessee. From 1982 to 1987, he was chief legislative advisor to Senator Al Gore. Since 2008, he has been an affiliated faculty at Vanderbilt University, Center for Latin American Studies. He is a graduate of Vanderbilt Law School and Middle Tennessee State University.

May 14—The State of the State Department and American Diplomacy—Ambassador Ronald Schlicher (Retired)

Ambassador Schlicher was a member of the United States Foreign Service of the Department of State from January, 1982, to September, 2011. During those years, he served in positions which created expertise in Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean issues, in counter-terrorism, in commercial advocacy, in the internal politics of Middle Eastern nations, and in crisis management. He was central to the Department's response to the so-called Arab Spring, including the transitions in Egypt, Libya, Syria, Yemen, and Tunisia. From 2008-2009, he was Principal Deputy Coordinator for Counter-Terrorism for the State Department. From 2005-2008, Ambassador Schlicher served as Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus, where he was instrumental in improving bilateral relations between Nicosia and Washington, and worked effectively with the UN, P-5 partners, Cypriot officials and private parties to support a negotiated reunification of the island. In July 2006, he led his Embassy's response in managing the crisis created by the flow to Cyprus of some 17,000 American citizens and dependents fleeing violence in Lebanon. From 2004-2005, he served as the State Department's Coordinator for Iraq, having earlier served in Baghdad as the Director of the Office of Provincial Outreach (OPO) for the Coalition Provisional Authority. From 2000-2002, Ambassador Schlicher was Chief of Mission and Consul-General at the Consulate-General in Jerusalem, where he led his Mission's response to the security and political crises created by the second Intifada. He earlier served from 1997-2000 as the Director of State's Office of Egyptian and North African Affairs. During this period, he was directly involved in conceiving and managing the run-up to the Pan Am 103 trial of the two Libyans accused of downing an American airliner in December 1988. From 1994-1997, he served as Charge d'Affaires and Deputy Chief of Mission at the United States Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon. Earlier career tours include five years in Egypt, two in Syria, and two in Saudi Arabia. He is fluent in several dialects of Arabic and in French, and has some working knowledge of Greek. Since his retirement, Ambassador Schlicher has resided in the Nashville. He serves as a Distinguished Adjunct Professor at the NESAC Center of the National Defense University in Washington, DC, and as a consultant on regional political, economic, security, and commercial affairs.